



August 13, 2015

Dear Community Leaders,

Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue (WTDR), (Northville, MI), supports the following proposed legislation and pet store program. We would like Michigan community leaders to encourage humane pet acquisitions through shelters and foster-based animal rescue organizations.

1. The Large Scale Commercial Dog Breeder HB 4898 will help to curb puppy mills in the state.
2. The Humane Pet Acquisition Ordinance to prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, long-loved birds and large reptiles in local communities and to protect families from irresponsible pet retailers.
3. The Puppy Friendly Pet Store program encourages pet supply stores to make an official policy not to sell puppies or kittens.

As a 501c3 non-profit all-breed, dog rescue organization in southeast Michigan our mission is to rescue homeless and abandoned dogs primarily from high-kill shelters and owners who can no longer care for them. By working with committed volunteers, foster homes, local veterinarians, trainers, and boarding facilities, we are able to provide needy dogs with loving, temporary care, and find them well-matched, carefully screened, forever homes.

We also serve as a resource to our community and all pet owners by providing education and information on responsible pet guardianship, including the importance of spay/neuter, positive behavior training, and good nutrition.

An impulse "purchase" of an animal can result in traumatic experiences or even death for a dog. For instance, Koda, a Chocolate Labrador Retriever was purchased and then soon sold via a Craigslist ad, and then sold again when he proved to be too high energy, before a Good Samaritan stepped in and got him to our rescue. Koda had a total of three homes prior to reaching one year of age. Today, Koda is happily living with a very active family with other dogs. When a behavioral issue arose, we were able to provide guidance to resolve the issue so that Koda could stay in his home. Koda has a happy ending but many pets purchased on impulse at retail pet stores do not. And, Koda's story isn't unique unfortunately.

For Koda, and many other dogs like him, please support humane treatment of our companion animals. They are truly at our mercy.

Sincerely,

Sandy Patton
President, Waggin' Tails Dog Rescue